

## CHILEAN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS SHOW RIGHTIST SENTIMENT

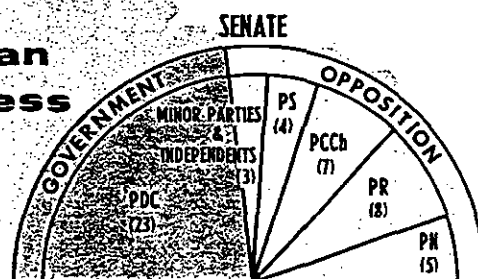
The results of the congressional elections in Chile on 2 March indicate that the political right, far from being a political corpse, has returned to importance with new vigor. The conservative National Party, formed in 1966 from two older parties, cut deeply into the support of President Frei's Christian Democratic Party (PDC) to win 20 percent of the vote. The PDC is still Chile's largest party, with about 30 percent of the vote, but its image of a strong center-left party offering revolution without violence has been badly damaged.

The composition of the new Congress will cause problems for any further reforms attempted by President Frei during his remaining year and a half in office. His party lost its majority in the Chamber of Deputies and now holds only 55 of 150 seats. In the Senate, although the PDC won 13 seats for a total of 23, it is still three seats short of control. Some battles may be won by combining forces with either the National Party or the Communist Party, but such agreements are likely only on a case-by-case basis.

The leftist parties together received about 30 percent of the vote. The Communists emerged solidly in third place with al-

most 16 percent but did not do as well as they had hoped. The Socialists overcame the defection of a splinter group and received just over 12 percent. Pro-Castro Socialist Salvador Allende was the largest vote-getter in his senatorial district and is in a strong position to obtain the presidential nomination next year, for the third time, of the

### Composition of Chilean Congress



50 Seats

(PDC) Christian Democratic

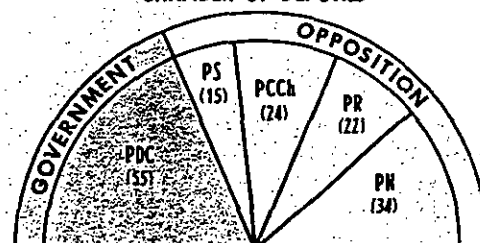
(PS) Socialist

(PCCCh) Communist

(PR) Radical

(PN) National

### CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES



150 Seats

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Communist-Socialist Popular Action Front.

The Radical Party, which for many years has been the "swing" party in Chile, lost ground,

frustrating the leftist leadership's hope for a strong showing that would encourage the Communists and Socialists to support a Radical for the presidency in 1970. [REDACTED]

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